

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 AGRE-00 COME-00

TRSE-00 XMB-02 EB-07 STRE-00 /051 W

-----121027Z 050163 /20

O 120950Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4612

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PASS TO AID/ASIA/BIS AND USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PL-480 TITLE I NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. AIR VICE MARSHAL MAHMOOD, DEPUTY MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR IN CHARGE OF THE FOOD MINISTRY, TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING (MAY 12) TO URGE THAT WE BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY ON THE 150,000 TONS OF TITLE I FOODGRAINS RECENTLY APPROVED IN WASHINGTON. MAHMOOD HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY THAT THIRD COUNTRY CLEARANCE WAS COMPLETED SOME DAYS AGO. HE, AND THE BDG GENERALLY, ARE STILL IN A STATE OF GREAT CONCERN OVER THE FOODGRAIN SITUATION, AND MAHMOOD IS STARTING TO ATTRIBUTE SOME POLITICAL MOTIVATION TO THE DELAY IN INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS.

2. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THE PROCEDURES REQUIRED BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THIS FACT, BUT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, NOW THAT THE THRID COUNTRY CLEARANCES WERE OUT OF THE WAY, WE COULD NOT PROCEED.

3. IF INDEED WE HAVE THRID COUNTRY CONCURRENCE, I

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STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE OPEN NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY. MAHMOOD KNOWS THROUGH HIS EMBASSY THAT THE 150,000 TONS IS SPLIT EVENLY BETWEEN WHEAT AND RICE. HE REAFFIRMED THAT THIS MEETS BANGLADESH'S NEEDS AND REITERATED HIS STRONG HOPE THAT FOR ECONOMIC AS WELL AS PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS AFFECTING FOODGRAIN TRADERS AND THE PUBLIC, THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE STATED

AT ONCE.

4. HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT ANOTHER HIGH LEVEL FOOD MEETING BETWEEN BDG AND DONORS IS BEING CELLED FOR MONDAY, MAY 16. WILL BE MOST EMBARRASSING IF WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEFORE THEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED BDG THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY.
MASTERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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